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PLS ENTER
JFV

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1. (Original) A method of operating a snowmobile engine having an air charging assembly, an engine air intake assembly, the method comprising the steps of:

compressing intake air in the air charging assembly;
providing a snow/ice retention area adjacent to a heat exchanger;
causing snow/ice to be propelled into the snow/ice retention area;
passing ram air through the heat exchanger and the snow/ice;
passing the compressed intake air through the heat exchanger to thereby transfer heat to the snow/ice; and
directing the compressed intake air into the air intake assembly.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further including the steps of: melting the snow/ice into liquid water; and blocking a portion of the heat exchanger to prevent flow of the liquid water out of the heat exchanger, thereby causing the liquid water to vaporize.

3. (Original) A method of operating a snowmobile engine having an air charging assembly and an air intake assembly, the method comprising the steps of:

compressing intake air in the air charging assembly;
locating snow/ice on a first heat exchanger by providing a snow/ice retention area adjacent to the heat exchanger, and causing snow/ice to be propelled into the snow/ice retention area;
passing an intercooler liquid through the first heat exchanger to thereby transfer heat to the snow/ice;